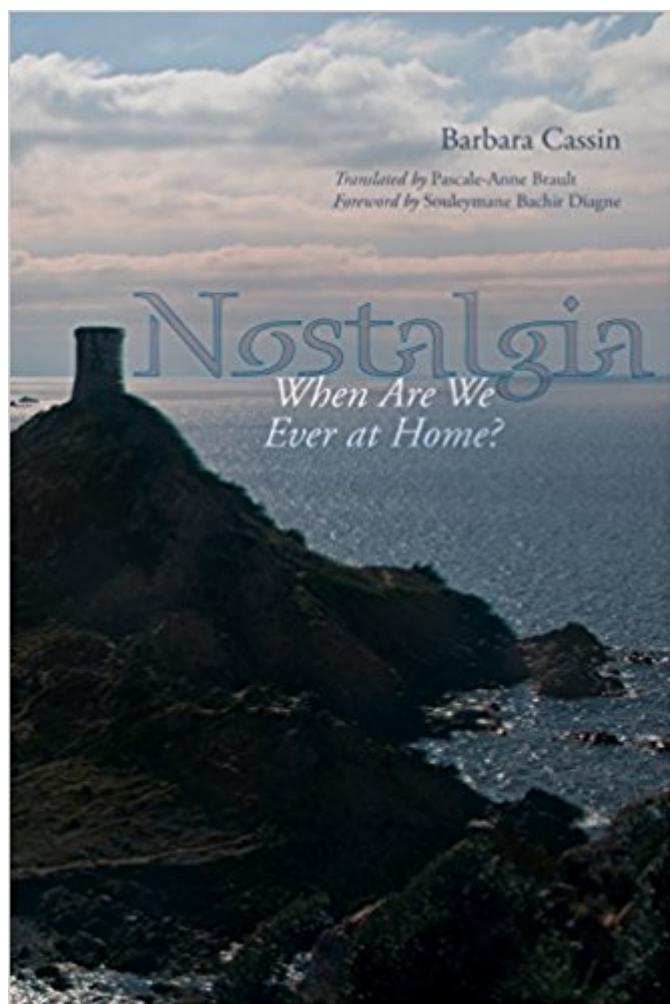


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Nostalgia: When Are We Ever At Home?



Synopsis

Winner, French Voices Grand Prize
Nostalgia makes claims on us both as individuals and as members of a political community. In this short book, Barbara Cassin provides an eloquent and sophisticated treatment of exile and of desire for a homeland, while showing how it has been possible for many to reimagine home in terms of language rather than territory. Moving from Homer's and Virgil's foundational accounts of nostalgia to the exilic writings of Hannah Arendt, Cassin revisits the dangerous implications of nostalgia for land and homeland, thinking them anew through questions of exile and language. Ultimately, Cassin shows how contemporary philosophy opens up the political stakes of rootedness and uprootedness, belonging and foreignness, helping us to reimagine our relations to others in a global and plurilingual world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A rich and moving account of home and homelessness by one of the most important and distinctively original French thinkers of our time. (Simon Critchley The New School for Social Research)
"La Nostalgie is] an erudite work in which [Cassin] incites us to make good use of this ambiguous, delightful and sometimes dangerous feeling."
(L'Express)
"This precise and beautifully written exploration of the meaning of nostalgia (well served by the translation) is throughout, like all of Barbara Cassin's work, a meditation on languages in their plurality and their equivalence, and on translation. When we fully understand that we do not speak the logos and when we authentically experience that our language

is just 'one language among others,' then we are ready to philosophize otherwise, to philosophize between languages, or, in Cassin's words, to 'philosophize in tongues.'" (from Souleymane Bachir Diagne's foreword)

Barbara Cassin is Director of Research at the CNRS in Paris and President of the Collège International de Philosophie. Her Dictionary of Untranslatables has been adapted into five languages, and her Nostalgia: When Are We Ever at Home? won the 2015 French Voices Grand Prize. Her most recent book to appear in English is Heidegger: His Life and His Philosophy (coauthored with Alain Badiou). Pascale-Anne Brault is Professor of French at DePaul University. She is the co-translator of several works of Jacques Derrida's, most recently For Strasbourg: Conversations of Friendship and Philosophy (Fordham). Souleymane Bachir Diagne is Professor of French and Philosophy at Columbia University. He is the author of African Art as Philosophy: Senghor, Bergson, and the Idea of Negritude.

This is a beautiful text. It touched my soul, provoked me to rethink familiar classical texts, drove me to inquire less familiar ones, and made it, once again, absolutely clear, how, through a masterful reading, the classic world can be made contemporary, and how urgently needed today are some of its wisdom and insights. Cassin's attempt to speak about language in the plural, to denationalize language and de-naturalize the way one is at home in one's own language, and to show how and explain why one is never fully at home there could be read as a concise introduction to her masterful, ambitious project "Dictionary of Untranslatables: A Philosophical Lexicon."

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